

Claims

1. Method for automatic detection of data types for data type dependent processing by a technical device,
5 **characterized in**
 a) receiving data (IN) of different data types,
 b) analyzing said received data,
 c) detecting (D1) the format of the received data,
 d) using said detected format for evaluating (D3)
10 whether said data contain
 - at least one machine-interpretable link and associated data (M),
 - any other data (E), e.g. text, picture data, links, except data of said first type (M), or
15 - a mixture of said machine-interpretable link and associated data (M) with said other data (E),
 e) evaluating (D4) whether said technical device is able to interpret said data for reproducing a physical representation of said data, and
20 f) supplying the result (M,E,C) of said first evaluation and the result (PD,AD) of said second evaluation to a device or process for data type dependent processing of said data (IN).
- 25 2. Method according to claim 1, wherein for data being interpretable (PD) by said technical device is also indicated whether the format type of said data is one of a number of specified format types (F1,...,F3).
- 30 3. Method according to any of claims 1-2, wherein for data being not interpretable (AD) by said technical device is also indicated if it is text.
- 35 4. Method according to any of claims 1-3, wherein said technical device is a data sorting device, a database management system or a data content browser.

5. Apparatus for automatic detection of data types for data type dependent processing characterized in that the method according to any of claims 1-4 are used.